

Lisa Marie Craine
Testimony in support of HB 537
Designation of February 12th as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Senate Health Committee – thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 537. This bill would designate February 12th as Cholangiocarcinoma Awareness Day.

My name is Lisa Craine and I am a mother, wife, patient mentors, research advocate and cholangiocarcinoma survivor. I was diagnosed with Stage IV Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma in 2010 and given six months to live. I have endured over 30 hours of surgery, over 50 chemotherapy treatments and radiation three times. I've had five recurrences with eight tumors.

When I was diagnosed there were no clinical trials or curative therapies. Thanks to The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation for bringing researcher, industry and patients together to improve outcomes, design better diagnostic tools and for giving all of us hope. Awareness is first step to growth and officially declaring February 12th as Cholangiocarcinoma Day in Ohio, let's our great state, officially join World Cholangiocarcinoma Day.

Cancer is not a blessing, but there have been many blessings along the way. My blessings include all the wonderful people I have met on my journey, the opportunity to advocate for others and to make sure that the patient voice is heard. I have had the privilege of advocating on Capitol Hill for Liver Health and I know together we can make a difference.

Thank you for sharing your passion along with patients all over world in spreading awareness for rare cancers like cholangiocarcinoma.

Once again, Chairman Huffman and Members of the Senate Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 537.